(a) whether it is a fact that site has been acquired to construct the Provident Fund Office at Guntur, if so, when; and

(b) what steps have been taken to undertake construction; what is the estimated cost thereof and when the construction is likely to be started and completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) & (b) The employees Provident Fund Organisation have reported that a piece of land was offered to them by the State Government for construction of the Provident Fund Office at Guntur. Pending finalisation of the cost of land by the State Government, the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner Guntur had taken possession of the land in July, 1988. It is, however, noted that the land which is situated in a low lying area, would require extensive earth filling involving very heavy expenditure. In view of this, the Organisation is proposing to surrender this land and to look for some feasible site for the construction of the office building.

Shops and Industries not observing Public Holidays

2443. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that shops and industries in most of localities in Delhi are not observing holidays on 15th August, 26th January and 2nd October every year;

(b) whether Government propose to issue statutory warnings to shopkeepers and industry-owners through media every year on the eve of these National Holidays;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(d) whether some of the shops and Industries in Delhi are not observing weekly holiday as per the existing norms;

(e) whether it is also a fact that some of the shops and industries in Delhi are not observing working hours as per the existing norms;

(f) whether this state of affairs has been causing great inconvenience to employees working there; and

(g) if so, the details of steps to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (g) According to the Delhi Administration, cases of violation of the provisions of the Delhi Shops and Establishments Act, 1954 relating to National holidays, close days and working hours have come to the notice of the enforcement agency. Prosecution is launched against the offenders and due vigilance is maintained by the enforcement agency.

ILO on Govt's Exit policy

2444. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has adversely commented upon Government's Exit policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exit policy for labour

2445. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Exit policy was discussed during the tripartite consultations held recently; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the labour unions thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) A Special Tripartite Committee constituted by the Ministry of Labour has addressed itself to the questions of industrial sickness, the need for modernisation of the industry and labour adjustments, in the context of the country's industrial development. The labour side of the Committee recognises that modernisation is a continuous process and is essential for the development of the economy. At the same time in the name of modernisation the workers should not be thrown out of employment. They agree that the labour should be retrained, their technical skills upgraded and they should be suitably redeployed. There must, however, be prior consultation with the unions at the unit level. It is further agreed that while the Special Tripartite Committee and the Industrial Committees would formulate general principles of rehabilitation and also examine individual cases, settlement reached at the unit level would provide the ideal solution.

Unemployed registered with Employment Exchanges

2446. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to stae:

(a) the number of graduates, PH. Ds, Engineers and doctors unemployed registered in the live register of Employment Exchanges State-wise in the country;

(b) since when they are on the live register; and

(c) how Government will solve this unemployment problem?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Number of Graduate, Engineers and Doctors on the live register of employment exchanges, not all of whom are necessarily unemployed, in the country as on 30-6-1990 (latest available) is annexed. [*See* Appendix CLXII Annexure No. 55]. No separate information on PH.Ds is compiled.

(b) Information on the number of job-seekers by length of stay on the live register of employment exchanges except SCs/STs is not maintained.

(c) Besides the employment generation taking place in the normal development process, additional employment is also generated through the special employment programmes. Employment is also a central objective of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Children pledged for bonded labour

2447. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that million children in the country are pledged into bonded labour as security for money borrowed by their families; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to get them released?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) The Government are aware of child bonded labour in certain pockets of the country. Since the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 makes no distinction between 'child and 'adult' bonded labour, statistics on children kept as bonded labour on account of debts incrred by their families is not kept. However, wherever existence of child bonded labour has come to the notice of the Governmnt, the resnective State Governments, who are the appropriate authority, are urged to take immediae action to obtain the release of such children from boundages and restore them to their parents.